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[Signature]
PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Kenji NISHI

Group Art Unit: 2851

Application No.: 09/856,051

Examiner: K. Brown

Filed: May 17, 2001

Docket No.: 109526

For: EXPOSURE METHOD AND DEVICE

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

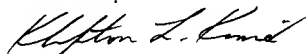
In reply to the October 2, 2002 Restriction Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects Group II, claims 57-61, 67, 70 and 76-100, with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 51-100 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims should be examined.

Respectfully submitted,



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MAC:KLK/dmw

Date: November 4, 2002

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